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FACSIMILE COVER PAGE

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| Date: Wednesday, February 1, 2006 | | | | | | | |
| To: | Examiner: | Luke RATCLIFFE | Group Art Unit: 3662 | | | | |
| Firm/Company: United States Patent and Trademark Office | | | | | | | |
| Fax Number: 571-273-8300 | | | | | | | |
| From: | Robert J. | Schneider, Reg. No. 27,383 | Matter Number: | 1715333 | | | |
| | | Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/718,230 | Extension: | 3919 | | | |
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| RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION. | | | | | | | |
| Robert J. Schneider | | | | | | | |
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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

U.S. Pat. App. Ser. No. 10/718,230 Attorney Docket No. 1715333

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| IN RE PATENT APPLICATION OF: | |) | | |
| | |) | | |
| KAORU KUMAGAI ET AL. | |) | | |
| | |) | Examiner: | LUKE D. RATCLIFFE |
| APP. SERIAL No.: 10/718,230 | |) | | |
| | |) | GROUP ART UNIT: | 3662 |
| APP. FILING DATE: NOVEMBER 20, 2003 | |) | | |
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FILED VIA FACSIMILE TO 571-273-8300

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION

Greetings:

The following is filed in timely response to the final Office Action mailed on December 2, 2005, wherein the Examiner:

- 1. Rejected Claims 1 and 5 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Kitajima*, U.S. Patent No. 5,589,939, in view of *Bremer et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 4,713,533.
- 2. Rejected Claim 2 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Kitajima* in view of *Bremer et al.* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Onaka et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,696,859.

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- 3. Rejected Claim 3 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Kitajima* in view of *Bremer et al.* as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Faramazpour et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 3,652,164.
- 4. Rejected Claim 4 under Section 103(a) as unpatentable over *Kitajima* in view of *Bremer et al.*, as applied to Claim 1, and further in view of *Konishi et al.*, U.S. Patent No. 6,671,002.

The following amendments and remarks are submitted in response.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.